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12 March 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussion with Ivan Dochev on Cross Border Operations

1. At a meeting with Dochev in New York on 4 February, Dochev indicated that a number of his followers were interested in participating in cross border operations designed to recontact "Legion" supporters and establish regular intelligence and political guidance channels.

2. Dochev was told that we were not interested in such activity for the time being but that we would like to hear his views on how he envisaged a joint effort along these lines. He expounded the following items:

a. Any cross border activity would have to be on behalf of the B.N.F and he personally was the authorized B.N.F representative who would have to select, train, indoctrinate, handle in the field, brief, dispatch, retrieve, and debrief. American participation would be limited to technical training, equipping, and providing other necessary support. Dochev stipulated that between himself and the responsible American case officer there would be a completely open relationship, that instructions from the American case officer would be transmitted faithfully, that all contacts inside would be revealed in advance, that no operational or intelligence data from the debriefing would be withheld and that, in general, there would be no secrets between us, however, he wanted to be in complete control of the men.

b. Men selected for operations would be trained in the U.S. or the field and kept in isolated safehouses in the field until before operations. They would not be paid and they would have no liberty to visit towns and cities. Their morale would be taken care of by a carefully planned and regimented life of physical exercise, training and political indoctrination.

3. It was obvious from what Dochev had to say that virtually all of the candidates for cross borders are former agents from Greece, that he did not have a realistic attitude on the morale and agent handling problems, also he did not have a realistic concept of the problems of preparing and mounting operations, particularly the problem of waiting. We explained to him how much effort and time went into the launching of one operation of possible marginal value and suggested that it would be a waste of his time as leader of the clandestine activity of the B.N.F. to tackle an agent handling and dispatching job which might very well, ~~xxxx~~ because of the agent morale factors involved, cause his followers to turn against him and reject his leadership. Dochev got the point and before the end of the meeting expressed a willingness to let the American case officer handle the agents and the launching of operations providing he had had sufficient time to give political indoctrination and brief the men on the political objectives of their mission. For any larger scale effort, he insisted on

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being present. [ ] In order to try to get Dochev on a more realistic plane, [ ] on the evening of 4 February, told [ ] about some of Dochev's views on agent handling in the hope that this would provoke a discussion and clarification of the practical problems of the life of an agent in a field situation. In the meeting with Dochev on 2 March, Dochev indicated [ ] had brought up the question and he was somewhat annoyed that he was being forced to face up to concrete problems at this stage in our relationship. He asked and was given assurance that we would not discuss substantive matters other than technical training ones with his men without his consent. We feel, however, that the maneuver has had the effect of forcing Dochev into more realistic discussions with his men.<sup>7</sup> The following names of "legion" followers inside Bulgaria that he would try to contact if cross border operations are conducted were mentioned by Dochev:

Zdravkov in Borisov Grad (Purvomay)  
Petko Khristov in Kurdzhali  
Ivan Yotov in Pazardzhik  
Slavcho Shkurto in Plovdiv  
Lazar Padarev in Sofia.

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